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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

October 15, 1990

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist and HLS
Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer TAG

RE: Site Visit, Cameron #1 Project, Native Asphalt Company, S/047/036, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 10, 1990

Time of Inspection: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Attendees: Carl Minden and Mark Lindsay, Native Asphalt Company; Kathy Trott, Army Corp of Engineers; Chad Gourley, Division of Water Rights; Tony Gallegos and Holland Shepherd, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

This inspection was a follow-up to an inspection conducted on August 15, 1990, when several compliance problems became apparent at the Cameron #1 site. We were accompanied on the inspection by individual representing Native Asphalt Company, the Army Corp of Engineers and the State Engineer's Office. An important issue which has developed at this site is the impact to a wetlands area, hence the reason for this follow-up inspection and site meeting.

After an evaluation of the site, by Kathy Trott of the Army Corp of Engineers, it was determined that the site does fit within the Corp's definition of a jurisdictional wetland, and must be permitted. Wetlands are determined on the basis of depth to groundwater, indigenous plants, soil properties, wildlife and age. Permitting will entail addressing the impacts to the wetland by mining. If the operator keeps to the current mine plan, the wetland area will be further impacted. The operator will probably be asked to create another wetland to replace the one currently being impacted.

The operator has constructed a pond in the northwest section of the disturbed area. This was inspected during the site visit, also. The ponds dike was breached during a recent storm event and the 10" discharge culvert plugged. After review by Chad Gourley of the State Engineers Office, the operator was asked to re-enforce the dike embankment and install a larger 24" culvert.

The pond is not used to treat water from the mine site. The water in it is clean and uncontaminated. It was created when an access road was constructed across the wetland area. Water from the pond may be used in the process of road base material on site. This material consists of a combination of sand, gravel, tar sands and water. The material is later marketed for road construction.

The operator's pit has been a focus of concern. It filled up with water this summer and was discharging water of degraded quality. The pit water was absorbing oils form the residual tar sands. The pit has since been drained and was empty during this last inspection.

The pit was draining water from the associated wetland area. Groundwater had, over a short time, seeped into the pit, eventually filing it and creating a poor quality discharge. The operator has constructed a temporary diversion at the toe of the seep which is now channeling the majority of water away from the pit. It was agreed, during our meeting, that keeping groundwater away from the pit is the primary environmental concern at this site.

A sample (oil and grease) of pit discharge water was taken during this inspection. Also, we observed that some type of micro organism was re-colonizing areas in the stream channel containing pit discharge water. This organism appears to feed off the oils dissolved in the water. During our last inspection, this bug colonized most of the bottom of the stream channel creating a thick dark brown, yellow slime.

A few issues remain yet to be resolved by the operator: 1) the question of permitting now under a large mine NOI; 2) including areas mined as sand and gravel on the site; and 3) evaluation of the transformer, on site, for PCB content. We discussed scheduling a meeting to address these issues with the operator at Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Triad Office, in the near future.

Topsoil from the area scalped for aggregate material has been stockpiled west of the road base stockpile and across the pond access road. No topsoil was salvaged from the road base stockpile/pad area.

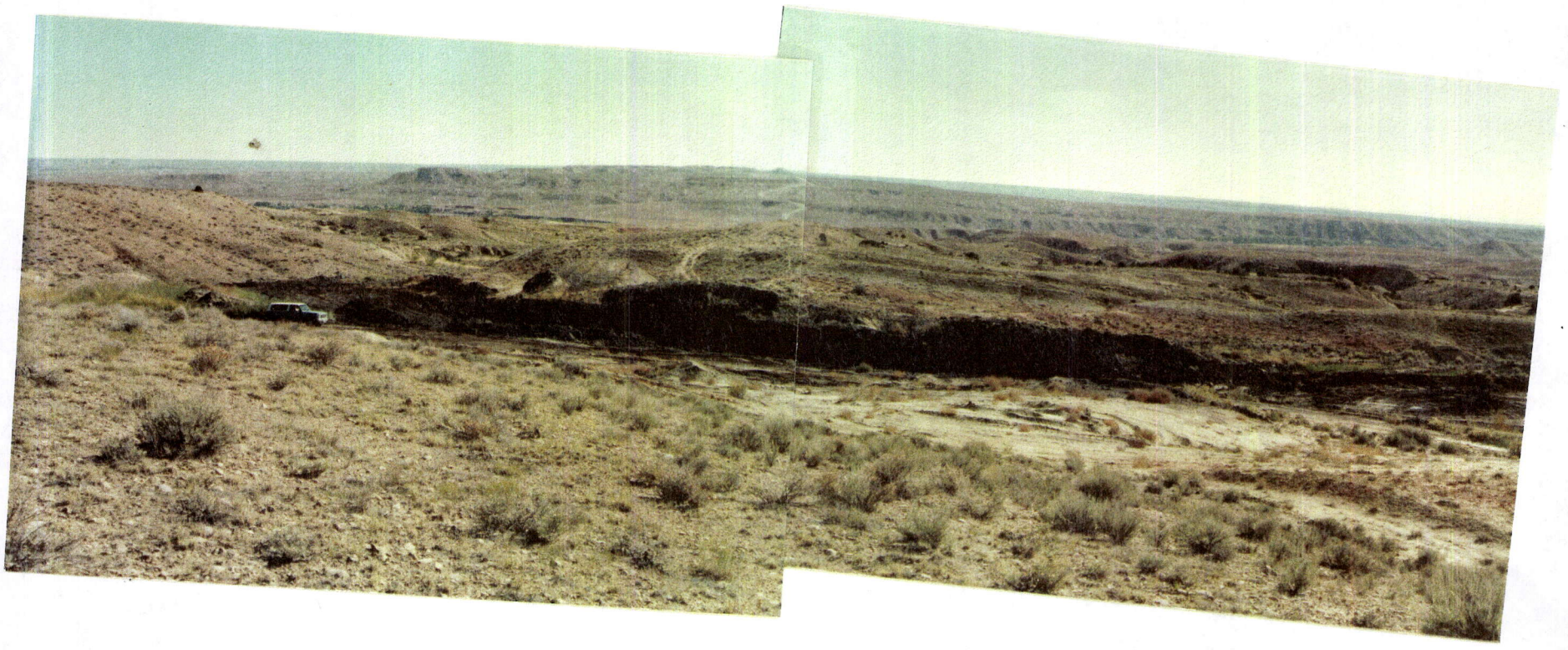
jb
cc: Chad Gourley, Water Rights
Mark Lindsay, Native Asphalt Co.
Kathy Trott, Army Corp of Engineers
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM
MNS047036.1

Native Asphalt Co. S/047/036
10-10-90
Detail of current asphalt pit

- note seepage diverted to left
& pit dewater to the right

Cameron Marie 10-10-90
S/047/003

Discharge from pit showing bugs in water and microbial colony forming.



Cameron #3 Mine
S/043/030 .

10-10-90

Pit excavated in wetlands area

10-10-90

Cameron #1 Mine
S/047/034

Leaching diversion from tailings pit
flows microbial population formed
in channel. Feeds on oils

Cameron Mine
S/047/086

10-10-90

Sealed portion of mine. Material
excavated sand & gravel

Cameron Mine
S/047/034

10-10-90

Mine pit, water drained out recently.
Had been full previous month

Cameron Mine
S/047/034

10-10-90

Tony Gallups standing on operator's
topsoil stockpile